

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 119992
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 MMO-01 SSO-00 /015 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKWARD:DHT
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE
EUR/CE:DANDERSON
EUR/P:FSEIDNER

-----242354Z 029813 /65

O 242332Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119992

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON US-GDR RELATIONS

REF: WARD-ALEXANDER TELCON MAY 24

1. THERE FOLLOWS VERBATIM TEXT OF FRONT PAGE LEAD ARTICLE
IN MAY 24 WASHINGTON POST ON GDR MOVES TO IMPROVE
RELATIONS WITH THE US:

BEGIN TEXT:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 119992

EAST GERMANY, IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS
WITH THE UNITED STATES, HAS AGREED TO SETTLE ALL PENDING
HUMANITARIAN CASES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND HAS
PROPOSED A WIDE RANGE OF EXPANDED TRADE, GOVERNMENT
AND CULTURAL CONTACTS.

THE MOVES, DETAILED YESTERDAY BY U.S. AND EAST GERMAN SOURCES, COME SHORTLY BEFORE NEXT MONTH'S 35-NATION CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE TO REVIEW COMPLIANCE WITH THE 1975 HELSINKI AGREEMENT. THEY CLEARLY APPEAR INTENDED TO PUT THE EAST GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

U.S. OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE PROPOSAL FOR EXPANDED CONTACTS AS "SIGNIFICANT" AND SAID THAT IN AGREEING TO SETTLE THE HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, EAST GERMANY HAS "TAKEN A GIANT STEP" TOWARD SOLVING PROBLEMS POSED BY ITS RESTRICTIVE EMIGRATION POLICIES.

EAST GERMANY, ALTHOUGH ONE OF EASTERN EUROPE'S MOST RIGID REGIMES AND THE SOVIET UNION'S MOST LOYAL ALLY, IS NONETHELESS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN INCREASING TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

A GOOD RECORD ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND DEMONSTRATION OF A READINESS TO EXPAND CONTACTS WOULD, IN EAST GERMANY'S VIEW, IMPROVE ITS CHANCES OF WINNING CONGRESSIONAL AS WELL AS PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL FOR PREFERENTIAL TRADE TREATMENT.

NOTIFICATION OF EAST GERMANY'S WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW SEVERAL DOZEN EAST GERMANY CITIZENS TO EMIGRATE TO JOIN RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES WAS GIVEN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT LAST MONTH BY EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR ROLF SIEBER, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 119992

ON MAY 12, EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER GAVE SOL POLANSKY, THE U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRS IN EAST BERLIN, A LIST CONTAINING NEARLY A DOZEN SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS.

U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE HUMANITARIAN CASES SETTLED BY EAST GERMANY INVOLVED ABOUT 60 PERSONS. MOST OF THESE WANTED TO JOIN RELATIVES HERE; A FEW ARE ENGAGED TO MARRY AMERICANS.

THE EAST GERMAN DECISION DOES NOT, HOWEVER, INCLUDE PERSONS WHO APPLY IN THE FUTURE TO EMIGRATE, U.S. SOURCES SAID, NOR DOES IT DEAL WITH A RELATED PROBLEM: EAST GERMANY'S RELUCTANCE TO ALLOW ITS CITIZENS TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES TEMPORARILY ON COMPASSIONATE VISITS TO AILING OR AGED RELATIVES.

MUCH OF WHAT EAST GERMANY PROPOSED IN THE LIST PRESENTED

BY ITS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BEEN REQUESTED PIECEMEAL PREVIOUSLY, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID, BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS ITS PACKAGE PRESENTATION NOW AS AN "IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT" AND IS "LOOKING AT IT VERY CAREFULLY."

EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL A "SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT" OF THEIR GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO "DEVELOP THE RANGE OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

EAST GERMANY HAS PROPOSED:

DOUBLING THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM RECENTLY INCREASED FROM 20 MAN-MONTHS OF STUDY TO 40; BROADLY EXPANDING THE LANGUAGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND MOVING TOWARD A FULL CULTURAL PACT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 119992

REGULAR CONSULTATION BETWEEN U.S. AND EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS; VISITS TO EAST GERMANY BY A HIGH-RANKING STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AND A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND AN INVITATION TO A TOP EAST GERMAN TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES.

TREATIES GOVERNING MAIL AND SHIPPING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND DECLARATION OF INTENT BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE TRADE WITH EACH OTHER ACTIVELY.

IMPROVED VISA, TRAVEL AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS.

CONCLUSION OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT.

THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE TO RESOLVE. FEW WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN WILLING TO RECOGNIZE FORMALLY EAST GERMANY'S RIGHT TO ACT IN CONSULAR MATTERS FOR RESIDENTS OF EAST BERLIN, WHICH IS STILL CONSIDERED UNDER SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION SINCE WORLD WAR II.

EAST GERMANY, WHOSE DEBT TO THE WEST HAS GROWN TO ABOUT \$5 BILLION, MADE A STRONG BID AT THE RECENT LIPZIG TRADE FAIR TO ARRANGE BARTER DEALS WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES, TO USE GOODS RATHER THAN MONEY TO BUY AMERICAN PRODUCTS.

JOINT COMMITTEES FOR TRADE WERE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED AND A 13-MEMBER EAST GERMAN TRADE DELEGATION IS TO BEGIN A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN JUNE.

END TEXT.

2. DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE AND RESULTS OF MAY 24

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 119992

PRESS BRIEFING WILL BE PROVIDED IN SEPTELS. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, PROGRESS REPORTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE119992
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKWARD:DHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0797
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770522/aaaaataj.tel
Line Count: 182
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f544d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2385979
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON US-GDR RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, GC, US
To: BERLIN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f544d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009